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VICTORIA SEAMEN'S INSTITUTE

B. C.

(INCORPORATED)

Affiliated with the British and Foreign Sailor's Society, Lon., Eng.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

HIS MAJESTY THE KING

COLONIST PRESSES

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The Work of the Victoria Seamen's Institute

THIS Society has been formed to carry on and extend the work of the Seamen's Institute, of which the late Mr. J. S. Bailey was in charge for many years, and faithfully did the work with the limited means at his disposal.

With the developments likely to take place in the harbor accommodation of Victoria and the rapidly increasing business of the Port it is felt that the time has come for a large extension of the work. Preparations have already been made for this by the purchase of a site about two years ago which has since been entirely paid for by the assistance of kind friends, and some $2,000 in addition has been collected by the Ladies Guild towards the erection of a new building.

The matter has also been placed before the Provincial Government, who have most generously contributed a total sum of $4,000 towards the work, so that there is approximately $6,000 already subscribed.

The site at the corners of Montreal and Kingston Streets is a most admirable one and is right in the line of harbor development. The Committee considers that the time has now come when building operations should be commenced.

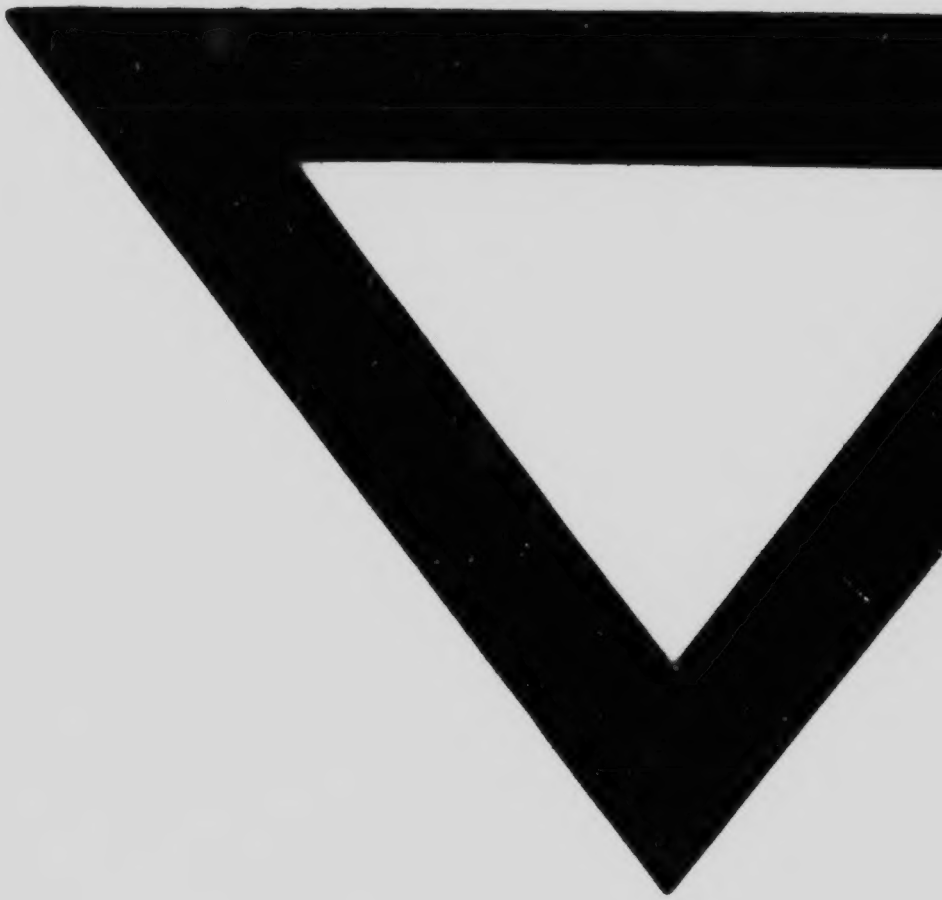
The great need is apparent when it is remembered 7,832 vessels have passed through the Port during the last ten

months, the foreign trade totalled much in excess of 3,000,000 tons, and 5,529 vessels in the coastwise trade arrived and departed from this Port. With this amount of shipping the number of sailors who are here from time to time is a very large one, and at present they have no place where they can get a night's lodging or proper recreation in a building specially adapted for them, and in this respect Victoria is behind every other large British Port. It is proposed to put up a building comprising restaurant, recreation rooms and bedroom accommodation, together with a large room for holding religious meetings, etc., and a suitable building can thus be erected for about $15,000. This will probably give the accommodation required for a few years, after which time it is expected that a larger permanent building can be erected on the same site, the land being sufficient for the purpose.

A small annual grant towards maintenance has been secured from the Dominion Government and this is likely to be increased in the future.

An appeal is now being made for the balance of the funds required. An annual subscriber is entitled to membership of the Society and to vote at general meetings. Persons subscribing $50 or upwards are eligible for election as Life Members.

Donations for the Building Fund and annual subscriptions will be thankfully received either by the authorized collector, Mr. Wright Hill, or the Bank of Montreal, or any member of the Committee.



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